

ABRAHAM LINCOLN NAME

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THE LINCOLN NAME

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# The Lincoln Name

## The Abraham Lincoln Name

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
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1921.

## Woman Seeks Divorce From "Abe Lincoln"

YAKIMA, Wash., April 22.—After 50 years of married life, during which he became the father of 13 children, Abraham Lincoln, was today sued for divorce by Melvina Lincoln, the grounds being non-support. The namesake of the martyr-president is a member of the Yakima tribe and was given his name when he was married at Old Fort Simcoe in 1872.

December 4, 1928

Mr. A. L. Lincoln  
Department of Public Instruction  
Richmond, Va.

My dear Mr. Lincoln:

I have written a magazine article for one of the February issues, entitled "Cherished and Illustrious Names." The publication is anxious to use two or three illustrations and as I have discussed those who have borne the name of Abraham Lincoln, I thought it would be timely if your picture would appear as one of the surviving sharers of this name.

I am wondering if you could supply me with a print of yourself and I shall be glad to bear any expense attached thereto.

Respectfully yours,

Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:CZ  
Louis A. Warren

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December 4, 1928.

Mr. Abraham Lincoln

Texas

My dear Mr. Lincoln:

I have prepared a magazine article for one of the February issues on "Cherished and Illustrious Names", discussing those who have borne the name of Abraham Lincoln.

I should like very much to use your photograph in this article, if you will permit and shall be glad to send you a copy of the magazine when it appears. Not knowing your address, it will be necessary for me to reach you at Beaumont, Texas.

Respectfully yours,

Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:CZ  
Louis A. Warren

What Does Your Name Mean?  
A brief history of your name.

The name Lincoln  
is the name of  
fifth of the original  
colonies.  
The name Lincoln  
was first used  
in England in  
the year 1155.  
The name Lincoln  
means "lone clearing".  
The name Lincoln  
was first used  
in England in  
the year 1155.  
The name Lincoln  
means "lone clearing".

January 30, 1929

Mr. Hiram G. Lincoln  
74 Rooney Street  
Santa Cruz, California

My dear Mr. Lincoln:

I have been advised by Mrs. Charles A. Peterson of Weyauwega, Wisconsin, that you had a grandson by the name of Abraham Lincoln.

I have recently contributed an article to the National Republic in which I mentioned those who had borne the name Abraham Lincoln, and I regret that I have omitted this grandson. Could you give me some information about him as to his age, his father's name, and the Lincoln line from which he is descended?

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

## *What Does Your Name Mean?*

BY HARRY A. DEFERRARI, PH. D.

### **Abraham-Livingston**

The personal name "Abraham" is of Hebrew origin, and means "the father of a multitude." It was especially popular as a baptismal name in England in the thirteenth century. Since that was the time when personal names were becoming hereditary, it is not surprising that "Abraham" should now be rather common as an English family name. There are many instances of this name in the Hundred Rolls (1273).

In France and the Netherlands the popularity of "Abraham" was due to the devotion to St. Abraham of Auvergne. This name was introduced into Ireland by the Anglo-Normans, but it never became common in that country. The French form of this name is spelled the same as in English. Its Italian equivalent is "Abramo." As a German family name it appears as "Abraham," "Abram," "Abrahams," "Abrams," "Abrahamssohn," "Abrahamson" and "Brahms."

As is well known, the various forms of this name are common among Jewish families. The personal and family name "Abram" has always been very much confused with "Abraham." However, "Abram" has a different Hebrew source, and in England it is sometimes of Anglo Saxon origin.

The family name "Livingston" (also spelled "Livingstone") is of Scottish-English origin. It frequently indicates an original place of residence in the parish called Livingstone in County Linlithgow, Scotland. The place-name "Livingstone" means "Loefing's Stone," the word "stone" in this case having the meaning of "castle." The personal name "Loefing" means "the son of the beloved man," so "Livingstone" may be translated "the castle of the son of the beloved man." However, there is evidence that in some cases "Livingstone" is of purely English origin, and is to be translated "the estate of Leofing." In such cases the ending was originally "-tun" instead of "-stone."—(©1931.)

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*Book of Names*  
*Vol. 1*

Y, MAY 12, 1931

### **What Does Your Name Mean?**

BY HARRY A. DEFERRARI, PH. D.

#### **Lincoln-Linton**

The family name "Lincoln" is found in the earliest English records. Some of its commonest variations which are found in old documents are "Lincolne," "Lyncoln" and "Lincolne." This name indicates that the persons who were first so called once lived in Lincoln, the capital of Lincolnshire, England. This place-name is the modern form of "Lindocolina." "Lindocolina," in turn, is a shortened form of the Latin name "Lindum Colonia." "Lindum Colonia" is of combined Celtic and Latin origin. It means "the pool-colony," that is, the colony situated near the pool.

The Hundred Rolls mentions a Robert de Lincolne and a Richard de Lincolne. Other instances of this

name in early English records are Daniel de Lincoln (1324), Adam de Lincoln (1379), and William Lincoln (1537). A church register of Epping, Essex, records the death of Sibella Lincoln in 1753. At the present time the family name "Lincoln" appears to be much more common in the United States and Canada than it is in Great Britain.

The family name "Linton" has come down to us from several sources, but in all cases it indicates an original place of residence. When it is derived from the Old English "lin-tun" it means "the flax enclosure" or "the flax farm." When its source is the Old English "lind-tun" it means "the lime-tree enclosure."

In northern England "Linton" generally represents the old form "hlynn-tun" which may be translated "the enclosure or farm near the torrent."

There are many villages and towns called "Linton" or "Lynton" throughout England. There is evidence that most of these place-names mean "the flax-enclosure" or the "flax farm." However, the place called "Lynton" in Devon is named for the River Lyn. In this river-name "Lyn" is of Celtic origin, and means "the stream."

As so often happened, a former residence in one of the above-mentioned villages or towns has frequently given rise to the family name. Thirteenth century instances of this name are William de Lynton, Richard de Linton, Robert de Lynton and Hugh de Linton.—(©1931.)



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# LINCOLN LORE

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August 2, 1937

## AN ILLUSTRIOUS NAME

Abraham Lincoln is one of the world's illustrious names. The Sixteenth President of the United States was responsible for its elevation to a place among the noted names of all time.

When Mordecai Lincoln married in 1685, Sarah Jones, daughter of Abraham Jones, a union was effected which brought the name Abraham for the first time into the Lincoln family in the calling of their second son, Abraham.

President Lincoln was named for his grandfather, Abraham, who was massacred in Kentucky in 1786. Shortly after this the pioneer's brother, Thomas, signed a deposition in which he stated that the pioneer spelled his name "ABRAHAM LINCOLN." All of the Abraham Lincolns have spelled their name this way.

Soon after President Lincoln received the nomination at the Chicago Convention, he wrote the following letter to the chairman of the Convention:

Springfield, Ill., June 4, 1860.  
Hon. George Ashmun.

My dear sir: It seems as if the question whether my first name is "Abraham" or "Abrahm" will never be settled. It is "Abraham," and if the letter of acceptance is not yet in print, you may, if you think fit, have my signature thereto printed "Abraham Lincoln." Exercise your judgment about this.

Yours as ever,  
A. Lincoln.

The compilation which follows presents a list of the President's relatives, living contemporaneous with and previous to him, who bore his name. Their occupation identifies them where it is known and where it is not known the name of the town where they were born appears in brackets.

### 1. Blacksmith.

b. 1689. Hingham, Mass. d. 1745, Springfield, Pa. s. Mordecai and Sarah Jones Lincoln. m. Rebecca. Named Abraham for his grandfather, Abraham Jones.

### 2. Cordwainer.

b. 172?, Monmouth Co., N. J. d. (1747) Philadelphia, Pa. s. Abraham (1) and Rebecca Lincoln. m. Esther Hilton. A Philadelphia cobbler.

### 3. Lumberman.

b. 1736, Exeter, Pa. d. 1806, Exeter. s. Mordecai and Mary Robeson Lincoln. m. Anne Boone. Member of the Pennsylvania State Convention of 1787 and the Constitution Convention of 1789.

### 4. Minute Man.

b. 1740, Scituate, Mass. d. 1823, Cohasset, Mass. s. Jacob and Mary Holbrook Lincoln. m. Sarah Lincoln. Saw service in the siege of Boston, March 4, 1776.

### 5. Pioneer.

b. 1744, Berks Co., Pa. d. 1786, Jefferson Co., Ky. s. John and Rebecca (Flowers) Morris Lincoln. m. Beresha (Herring). Grandfather of President Lincoln and Adjunct General in military courts of Virginia.

### 6. Scythemaker.

b. 1749, Kingsessing, Pa. d. 1811, Kingsessing, Pa. s. Jacob and Anne Rambo Lincoln. m. Elizabeth Shrum. He and his wife are buried in the Old Swede's Church Cemetery, Philadelphia.

### 7. Apothecary.

b. 1762, Hingham, Mass. d. 1824, Boston, Mass. s. Enoch and Rachel Fearing Lincoln. m. Nancy Bigelow. Massachusetts State Representative from 1809 to 1824. State Senator, 1824.

### 8. Laborer.

b. 178?, North Union, Pa. d. 1864, Lemont, Pa. s. Benjamin and Elizabeth Davis Lincoln. m. Martha Cole.

### 9. Millwright.

b. 1788, Cohasset, Mass. d. 1869, Watertown, Mass. s. Abraham (4) and Sarah (Lincoln) Lincoln. m. Mary Upham.

### 10. (Linville).

b. 179?, Linville, Va. d. ?, Clay Co., Mo. s. Thomas and Elizabeth Casner. m. Agatha. An own cousin of President Lincoln's father.

### 11. Justice of the Peace.

b. 179?, Washington County, Ky. d. 1852, Fountain Green, Ill. s. Mordecai and Mary Mudd Lincoln.

m. Elizabeth Mudd. He was an own cousin of the President.

### 12. Farmer.

b. 1799, Linyville, Va. d. 1851, Linville, Va. s. Jacob and Dorcas Robinson Lincoln. m. Mary Homan. A colonel in the Virginia Militia and an own cousin of the President's father.

### 13. Sail Maker.

b. 1801, Boston, Mass. d. 1839, Bath, Me. s. Amos and Eliza Revere Lincoln. m. Hannah Wales. A grandson of Paul Revere.

### 14. Wagonmaker.

b. 1802, Kingsessing, Pa. d. 1892, Waynesville, Ohio. s. Abraham (6) and Elizabeth Shrum Lincoln. m. Ruth Prater.

### 15. President.

b. 1809, Hodgenville, Ky. d. 1865, Washington, D. C. s. Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. m. Mary Todd. The Sixteenth President of the United States.

### 16. (Carnarvon).

b. 1812, Carnarvon, Pa. d. 1900, Whitehall, Pa. s. James and Elizabeth Jones Lincoln. m. Sarah Jenkins.

### 17. Confederate Captain.

b. 1822, Dayton, Va. d. 1905, Harrisonburg, Va. s. David and Catherine Bright Lincoln. m. Mary Hughes. Capt. of Virginia Militia seeing service at Winchester.

### 18. (Watertown).

b. 1830, Watertown. d. 1894, Boston, Mass. s. Abraham (9) and Mary Upham Lincoln. Unmarried.

### 19. Mason.

b. 1830, Cohasset, Mass. d. 1912, Cohasset, Mass. s. Caleb and Elizabeth Robbins Lincoln. m. (1) Sarah White (2) Mary Galbraith.

### 20. County Treasurer.

b. 1835, Lincoln Creek, Va. d. 1875, Denver, Colo. s. Jacob and Nancy Rhodes Lincoln. m. Celia Hobbs.

### 21. Shipper.

b. 1860, Boston, Mass. d. 1889, Pembroke, Mass. s. Peter and Nancy Porter Lincoln. Unmarried.

### 22. Clerk.

b. 1861, Mifflin, Wis. s. Dickinson and Elizabeth Kay Lincoln. m. (1) Rose Hemenway (2) Mary Kenton. At one time city clerk of Cottage Grove, Oregon.

# LINCOLN LORE

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Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 566

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February 12, 1940

## Ā' brä häm Lin' kūn

One hundred and thirty-nine years ago today an infant born in a log cabin near the present town of Hodgenville, Kentucky, was named Abraham Lincoln. As it is usually the mother who selects her child's given name, so, if it be true that the female of the species chooses her mate, does she determine the surname as well.

Although this name, Abraham Lincoln, has become one of the traditional "household words," it is often mispronounced by those who admire the man most. Lincoln himself had much difficulty in getting his given name properly spelled, and many biographers still insist that his surname was originally Linkhorn.

It cannot be said that there is but one exact, correct pronunciation for the name of this illustrious man, but most authorities feel it should be pronounced as follows: Abraham—the first "a" is like "a" in *labor*, the second like "a" in *arm*, and the third like that in *am*, the emphasis being on the first syllable. Lincoln—(lin kūn) the "i" is like "i" in *cabin* and the "u" is like "u" in *under*.

When the Pilgrims arrived in America motivated by a sincere desire to improve their spiritual environments, they dedicated their new homes to God. While they often named their New England communities after the hamlets where they had lived in old England, they absolutely refused to name their children after the English Kings and Queens.

Samuel and Martha Lincoln of Hingham, Massachusetts, named their sons Samuel, Daniel, Mordecai, and Thomas. No sons of theirs were to be called after Charles, George, Richard, or Henry. When Mordecai and Sarah named their boys, they called them Mordecai, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It was here that the name of Abraham Lincoln was introduced into the family. Abraham, son of Mordecai, had been named for his grandfather, Abraham Jones. Thereafter "Abraham" seemed to be a favorite name in the family of the Lincolns, and it was one of the key names which assisted greatly in eventually tracing the lineage of President Lincoln.

Nearly every generation of Lincolns had its Abraham, and usually an Isaac and a Jacob. In 1782 one of these Abrahams moved to Kentucky where four years later he was massacred by the Indians. In the settlement of his estate his oldest son Mordecai under oath was asked how his father spelled his name, and he replied, "He spelt his name ABRAHAM LINCOLN." It was this name which was passed on to his grandson, President Abraham Lincoln.

It is very likely that the son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks was called "Abe" by his playmates, but there is no indication that he ever referred to himself by this nickname. His first signature, written as early as 1824 when he was but fifteen years of age, is written out in full.

It would appear that when Abraham departed from his father's house at the age of twenty-one, he left his given name behind and thereafter was called "Lincoln." One fact is clearly established, that after he reached Illinois he consistently signed his name "A.. Lincoln." Whether or not he dropped the name Abraham because he did not like it or because he had been nicknamed "Abe" which he may have resented, may never be known.

The initial "A" for Abraham in Lincoln's signature presents a strange peculiarity in that two periods are used after it instead of the usual one period. Possibly with his sense of humor Lincoln felt that the name Abraham was such a long one that it deserved two periods.

Shortly after Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency there was much speculation about the spelling of his name, especially his given name. He had occasion to write to George Ashmun about it on June 4, 1860, in these words:

"My dear Sir: It seems as if the question whether my first name is 'Abraham' or 'Abram' will never be settled. It is 'Abraham,' and if the letter of acceptance is not yet in print, you may if you think fit have my signature thereto printed 'Abraham Lincoln.' Exercise your judgment about this."

It is about the original spelling of the surname, however, that there has been a continual debate. It is quite true that it is found in many different forms in the early colonial records, such as Linken, Linkern, Linkon, Linkorn, Lingcum, Lingcorn, and many other variations. Without an exception these incorrect spellings were from the pens of persons not associated with the Lincoln family, usually clerks and other copyists in the offices of the recorders. There is no evidence that any member of Abraham Lincoln's ancestral line ever spelled his name other than LINCOLN. Furthermore it may be said that there is yet to be discovered a Lincoln related to the President who could not write his name, and there were many illiterate men in America during the early years of the nation's existence.

If Lincoln did lament the day that he was blessed with such a name as Abraham, he was not successful in obscuring it with an initial "A" after he became "The Railsplitter" candidate for the Presidency. The homely old Biblical name became a bonanza in the copy of the publicist, and soon the name Lincoln faded out with preference given to the "Abe", or as it was usually displayed, "Old Abe." One enthusiastic correspondent called him during the Presidential campaign, "Old Abe Lick-em", while others called him "Old Abe" in the spirit of derision.

There was an amusing display of his name associated with that of Vice-presidential candidate Hamlin. Some wag had printed this form: abraHAM LINcoln.

Elected to the Presidency, Lincoln was confronted with the necessity of again using his given name in his signature to make his signed documents legal, and all of his state papers were signed Abraham Lincoln, but he still continued to use for his personal correspondence the old A. Lincoln signature.

While the term "Father Abraham" may have been used during the political campaign in the spirit of jest, it was not long after the war was in progress that it became a term of endearment which the soldiers used constantly. The paternal name soon gathered about it a degree of respect and reverence unapproached by any other American name.

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